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Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.—Deut. xxxii. 7.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

To rescue from oblivion and protect the remembrance of worthy men, has ever been regarded as a pious and honorable feature in the progressive history of civilization. Thinly stationed along the deep vista of the past, may be dimly seen a class of men, occupying no sumptuous niche in the temple of fame, but whose scrutinizing lives have been deemed to an exploration of the biography, annals and memoirs of antecedent times, and thus constantly evolving historic material. These are the Antiquarians of the world; and without them, the historian would find but little on which to base his hopes of success.

To preserve its own genealogy, is the easy and filial duty of every family; but the restoration of neglected lineology falls within the scope of the antiquarian. Although countenanced by various examples in Scripture, and to a limited extent attended to by all the civilized nations of the earth, it is not till a very modern period that genealogy has received any general attention, but passing, as the public mind now is, from an age of fiction into one of History and other solid attainments, it very naturally takes genealogy with it as an agreeable concomitant.

SKETCH OF GREGORY DEXTER.

Rev. Gregory Dexter was born at Olney, North Hampton Co., England, A. D. 1610. He early went to London and became a printer; and, in connection with a gentleman by the name of Coleman, kept a Stationer's establishment at London. Mr. Dexter was connected with the Baptist society at London, and was the friend and immediate correspondent of Roger Williams. When, in 1643, Roger Williams went to England to procure the first Charter for the infant Colony, he took with him the manuscripted his Dictionary of the Indian Language, and, on the voyage, arranged it for being printed; and in 1643, Mr. Dexter printed the first edition of it at London,—a reprint of which now constitutes the first volume of the publications of the R. I. Historical Society. On the return of Roger Williams with the Charter, in 1644, Mr. Dexter sold out his establishment at London and came with his friend Williams to try his fortunes in the new world. Among the manuscript papers of President Stiles, of Yale College, as copied into Thomas's History of Printing, occurs the following passage — Mr. Dexter quitted printing, left his native country and joined Williams at Providence, where he became a distinguished character in the Colony. He was one of the parties named in the Charter, [the second Charter, by Charles II., in 1663,] and for a number of years was one of the Assistants, under the authority granted in that Charter. He was one of the first Town Clerks of Providence; wrote an uncommonly good hand, possessed handsome talents, and had been well educated. From him descended the respectable family of Dexters in Rhode Island."

In addition to this testimony of Dr. Stiles, it may be remarked that Mr. Dexter held various other civil offices under the institutions of the young but growing community, as may be seen by examining the archives of the Town and Colony; and as his character and abilities, his knowledge of Latin and his general literary attainments, fitted him for so many positions where in the general paucity of mental cultivation he was so much needed, he was most emphatically a public man. Nor were his public labors confined to civil life. He was the fourth Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence, having been called to succeed Rev. Mr. Wickenden, about 1650. While in this position, and all his other duties, he won the name of an effective, able and successful preacher, the evidences of which, for many years, were witnessed in the baptismal burials in their humble Jordan—the consecrated waves of the Moshassuck.* Nor did he derive his temporal support from ministerial salaries or official emoluments, (things of later adoption,) but drew his sustenance from the cultivation of his lands, and thus provided for his household and deeds of charity; and, in the absence of schools, he educated his children at home, and taught them to labor, and rendered them respectable citizens of the Colony.

Mr. Dexter was the first *accomplished* printer that came to this country; and although he did not pursue it here as a profession, yet for several years he made occasional visits to the then village of Boston, to assist and instruct Mr. Samuel Greene, in some printing needed at that place and at the young College at Cambridge; and Mr. Dexter printed with his own hands the first Almanack for the meridian of Rhode Island.

This Forefather, in our colony, lived to be over ninety years of age, enjoying, for that long period the blessings of health and mental soundness; and he enjoyed the satisfaction of witnessing around him in virtue and respectability. It was his constant habit, through life, to connect with all his transactions, a recognition of an over-ruling Divine Providence: thus, by an occurrence in King Phillip's War, when Providence was limned by the hailstone, two of his grand-children were rendered orphans; and in an instrument drawn by his own hand, in 1695, when he was 85 years old, making a property provision for these two orphans, [Peleg and Isabel] he says:—"By the good Providence of God, I have thus provided for the two children of my deceased son, James," &c.; and in the same document he indicates the desired spot of his burial,—"Should I and my wife dye in this towne." Here he clearly indicates that he was not so decrepit as to be confined at home, but might "dye" in some other place. It is authenticately recorded by a subsequent Pastor of his Church, that Mr. Dexter never laughed in his life, and was rarely known to smile; yet he was always a very pleasant, friendly and agreeable man; and his proverbial candor and soundness rendered him a center of attraction (especially after the death of Roger Williams) in those stormy and difficult periods in the civil, political and religious history of our precarious colony, when so much and so frequent wholesome counsel and advice were so greatly needed; and in his life and daily walk he also adorned all the minor social qualities of a substantial civilization.

Mr. Dexter died in the year 1700, lamented throughout the Colony, and was interred in his private burying-ground, where he had desired,—a short distance easterly from the present junction of North Main and Benefit streets, [Constitution Hill,] and in a lot now [1857] belonging to the heirs of the late Ezekiel Burr. This was his "home lot" in the ancient divisions of the town;—his first house was a log house, and was destroyed by the Indians, in 1676; his second was rebuilt in better style, and occupied a part of the site of the house now occupied by William Rea, and was demolished, to give place to another, about the year 1800.

Such was the character of the Rev. Gregory Dexter; such was his home through his long earthly pilgrimage, and such was his final resting-place; yet, much as he was beloved and respected in his life and at his death, through the mutations of time "and a stone tells where he lies!" Ye living descendants of this venerable Patriarch I shall this nameless grave much longer thus remain?

Mr. Dexter's amiable wife, Abigail, lived nearly as long as he did. They had four sons and one daughter. The daughter, Abigail, married James Angell, son of Thomas, from whom have descended a numerous posterity. The descendants of Mr. Dexter have been quite numerous, and some of them have been benefactors to the Public. To Ebenezer K., in the 6th generation, the city of Providence is indebted for its noble institution for its unfortunate Poor, "The Dexter Asylum." Henry, in the 5th generation, is the eminent sculptor of the Statue of Gen. Warren, inaugurated in 1857, at Bunker Hill. Many of them have adorned the learned professions and elegant walks of life; and with very rare exceptions, the whole have been a respectable, industrious and thrifty people.

This Genealogical Diagram has been accumulated and compiled under the patronage of Lewis Dexter, Jr., of Providence, in the 7th generation; and represents the descendants, in family groups, down to 1857, with provision for its continuation with a pen, in the future; and nearly all the families complete, with their intermarriages with others, have been rescued from decaying records, fading memorials, tomb-stones and memento of the past, and permanently enrolled in the "Great Book of Monumental Genealogy." And it is earnestly hoped that each family, in the future, possessing this sheet as a guide, will keep itself duly registered; and each member thereof endeavor to imitate the worthy example of their ancestral race; nor ever forget to discharge the duties they owe to themselves, their God, and their country.

There were other families of Dexters, all originating in the same common ancestry, in England, who came to New England during the 17th Century; one of whom was Richard Dexter, a cousin of Gregory, who arrived in Boston, in 1641, from whom descended Hon. Samuel Dexter, the eminent lawyer, and many others scattered over the country; and in some instances it has been no small labor to avoid confusion in this genealogy; but, in the accomplishment of the task, the Compiler has relied upon no sources of information but such as bear the marks of authenticity. Four of these descendents, like their venerable Ancestor, lived to the age of 90 years, and a much larger number from 70 to 80 years; and some of them left detached fragments, in writing, of their particular branches: but to the untarnished memory of Col. Edward Dexter, in the 5th generation, now living in his 85th year; to Marvin A. Dexter, Esq., of Killingly, Conn.; to the intelligent widow of John H. Dexter, of Providence in the 7th generation; to those rich mines of antiquarian lore, Judge Staples and Dexter Thurber, Esq., and many others, the compiler owes his acknowledgements for special favors.

For the better understanding of this diagram, the reader is referred to the Key.

* Mosshassick—the perpetuated Indian name of the river which empties into the cove or basin at the south part of Providence. It is now a mere walled canal; but two centuries ago, the scenery of its banks was regarded as "scarcely romantic."

[Extract from Gregory Dexter to Sir Henry Vane, of England.]

Sir,—Although we are grieved at your late retirement from the helm of public affairs, yet we rejoice to reap the sweet fruits of your rest, in your pious and loving lines, most seasonably sent us. Thus the sun, when he recedes his brightness from the world, yet, from under the very clouds, we perceive his presence and enjoy some light and heat and sweet refreshing * * * * * * whom we are gone, and our child ren shall be after us shall read in our records your pious and farreach ing kindnesses to us, and this our manner and real endeavor to walk in holy righteousness, &c. &c.

[Dated Providence, August 27, 1651.]

The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our Fathers.—1. Kings viii. 57.

1610. DEXTER. 1857.

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A New and Correct System of Geneology.

A family should mean a husband, his wife or wives and his children. A brace connects the husband with his wife or wives, and those who follow are children with place and year of birth. The birthplace of children will show the residence of parents; and a male name on the same line with a female child will show whose wife she became. If the husband married a widow, put the surname of her deceased husband in brackets after her christian name, and before that of her father. Give the full name of the husband, and christian name of his father, and christian name of the wife with full name of her father. If the husband married before or after the brace around the second or third wife and designate the children of the different wives. By this standard peculiar arrangement any series of families of the past may be beautifully linked together in consanguinity. Descendants now or in future possessing this sheet are requested to continue the diagram with a pen as new births occur, and also to record their full maiden names in accordance with the principles laid down in this table.—Thus the whole will be constantly updated.

Providence, R. I. Dec., 1857.

A FAMILY.	Where Born.	Born A. D.	Died A. D.
Lewis Dexter, son of Lewis—Christopher—Stephen— John—Gregory.	Smithfield, R. I.	1793	
Mary, daughter of Jonathan Angell.	Smithfield, R. I.	1799	
Mary Dexter	Smithfield, R. I.	1826	
Lewis Dexter	Smithfield, R. I.	1829	
Louisa Dexter [Lucian Sharpe]	Smithfield, R. I.	1841	
Lydia Dexter	Smithfield, R. I.	1843	
Henry Dexter [Unmarried]	Smithfield, R. I.	1836	1839
Sarah Dexter	Smithfield, R. I.	1838	
Amey Dexter [Unmarried]	Smithfield, R. I.	1842	1849

GREGORY DEXTER'S ARMORIAL SEAL

KEY.

Dotted lines lead from Fathers to Children. The figures at the top and bottom of the columns of births. The figures at the top and bottom of the columns of names, will give the generation each occupies when counted from the original progenitor. The star denotes that the person died, or probably will die, without issue. The dash indicates that no descendents could be found, though not certain that they had none.

Notes.—It will be perceived that there are all descendants in the male line and bearing the name of Dexter. Descendants of daughters intermarried under other names, though quite as numerous as the males, are not here given; nor are the wives here given, because they are not descendants; but in the "Great Book of Monumental Genealogy," the wives and their origin are all given in full, and in tabular form, like the illustration at the bottom of this column.

Attached to each name will give the year of birth. The figures at the top and bottom of the columns of names, will give the generation each occupies when counted from the original progenitor. The star denotes that the person died, or probably will die, without issue. The dash indicates that no descendents could be found, though not certain that they had none.

Notes and bearing the name of Dexter. Descendants of daughters intermarried under other names, though quite as numerous as the males, are not here given; nor are the wives here given, because they are not descendants; but in the "Great Book of Monumental Genealogy," the wives and their origin are all given in full, and in tabular form, like the illustration at the bottom of this column.

PREPARED AND COMPILED BY
S. C. NEWMAN,
MEMBER OF THE R. I. HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND C[illegible] OF THE BLACKSTONE MONUMENT ASS[illegible]
GENEALOGICAL SECRETARY OF [illegible] ASSOCIATION.

PROVIDENCE:
KNOWLES, ANTHONY & CO., PRINTERS.
1857.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Waterman, 1753.	Smith, 1780.	Jencks, 1802.	John, 1825.		
				Benjamin, 1755.	Andrew W., 179[illegible]	Anna, 1801.	Francis, 1827.		
				Stephen, 1760.–	Benjamin, 1795.	Henry, 1806.			
				David, 1763.–		Jesse, 1811.	Harriet J., 1829.		
					Waterman, 1785.	Caroline, 1813.	Anna E., 1834.		
					Henry, 1790.*		Henry A., 1836.*		
				Samuel, 1757.	Jencks, 1792.*	Arnold, 1823.*			
				Nathan 1759.	Benjamin, 1794.	Andrew, 1825.*	Emma C., 1842.		
				Hannah, 1761.		Horace, 1826.*	Charles L., 1842.*		
				Anna, 1763.	Samuel, 1779.–	William W., 1827.	Jane, 1845.		
				John, 1765.	Otis, 1781.*	Clarissa A., 1828.	Henry, 1848.		
				William, 1767.		Edward A., 1831.	Kirk, 1851.		
					Nathan, 1782.–				
				Mary, 1762.	George, 1784.–	Albert, 1839.	Andrew W., 1857		
				Joseph, 1764.	John, 1786.–	William, 1832.			
				Philip, 1766.	Rebecca, 1787.				
				Elizabeth, 1768.	Phebe, 1789.	Benjamin, 1815.*			
				Christopher, 1770.					
				Abigail, 1772.	Hiram, 1793.*	Henry R., 1834.			
				Alice, 1774.	Ella A., 1795.	Benjamin F., 1835.			
				Sarah, 1776.	William J., 1796	Andrew J., 1836.			
				Lydia, 1778.	John B., 1800.				
				John, 1780.	Lucy A., 1803.	Lucina, 1840.			
				Anna, 1782.		William A., 1842.			
					William B., 1792	John F., 1844.			
				Anna, 1761.	Phebe, 1794.	Charles H., 1846.			
				Susannah, 1763.	Anna, 1795.	Sarah, 1850.			
				Phebe, 1765.					
				Phebe, 1767.	Celia, 1787.	William J., 1833.			
				Stephen, 1768.*	Abigail, 1789.				
				Mehitable, 1771.	Elsc, 1791.	Phebe A., 1818.			
				Ebenezer K. 1773*	Sarah A., 1793.	Mary J., 1821.			
				Abigail, 1775.	Mary, 1795.	William H., 1823		Adelaide S., 1845.	
					Jonathan, 1797.	Louisa A., 1826.		Lyman C., 1854.	
					Eliza, 1799.	Elizabeth A., 1826. } Twins.			
					Harry, 1802.				
					Marvin A., 1805	Mary, 1828.			
						Edward, 1831.			
					Benjamin G., 17[illegible]				
					Eliza, 1792.	Abby, 1831.			
					Nancy, 1795.	John, 1833.			
					Lyman, 1798.*				
					Jonathan, 1800.*	Benjamin, 1835.–			
					George, 1802.				
					William, 1806.	Charles, 1834.			
						John, 1837.			
					Anthony, 1791.				
					Susan, 1793.	Else, 1817.			
					Amey, 1796.	Abby, 1819.			
					Mary, 1799.	Albert, 1821.	Mary, 1845.		
					Betsey, 1803.	Mary, 1823.			
					Maria, 1809.	Louisa, 1825.			
					Christopher C.,	Adeline, 1827.			
					Caroline, 1809.				
						John, 1838.			
					Else, 1806.	Philip, 1840.			
					Francis, 1808.	Mary, 1842.			
					Adeline, 1810.	William, 1841.			
						Emma A., 1846.			
						Christopher, 1848.			
						Anna, 1851.			
	Peleg, 1673.–								
	Isabel, 1675.								
	Stephen, 1689.	John, 1725.*	Joseph, 1750.*	Lewis, 1793	Mary, 1826,	Walter, 1852.			
	James, 1651.	Joseph, 1727.	Moses, 1752.*	Sarah, C., 1795.	Lewis, 1829,	Sarah, 1854.			
	John, 1692.	Christopher, 1728.		Lydia, 1797.	Louisa, 1831,	Frank, 1856.*			
	Mary, 1694.	Jeremiah, 1730.	Amey, 1750.	Amey, 1799.	Lydia, 1833.	Arthur, 1857.*			
	Abigail		Gregory, 1752.*						
	Sarah		William, 1755.*	Charles II., 1829.		, 1854.			
	Phe[illegible]		Alice, 1756.	Christopher, 1831*					
				Christopher C., 1[illegible]		E., 1848. } Twins.			
	Stephen, 1617.	Alice, 1[illegible]	[illegible]	Edward, 1793.*		1848. }			
	John, 1659.	Jos. 1718.	Lewis, 1760.	Eliza C., 1794.		1854.			
	James, 1660.	James, 1720.	Charles, 1765.*	Oliver, 1796.*	Samuel F., 182[illegible]	Jeralmeel, 1835.			
	John, 1652.–	David, 1722.	Wait, 1768.	Stephen, 1798*.	Sally S., 1831.	Albert, 1836.			
	Abigail, 1655.	Anna, 1723.	Lydia, 1770.		John M., 1833.	Mary E., 1842			
	Peleg, 1658.	Darcy, 1725.	Ada, 1772.	Sally S., 1797.	Joseph D., 1835.				
		Hopestill, 1727.		Edward, 1799.	Edward, 1837.	Amey E., 1841.			
			Susan, 1787.	Henry H., 1801.	Timothy W. 183[illegible]	Emma, 1845.			
		William, 1714.	Amey, 1788.	Frances S., 1803.	Abby S., 1842.	Samuel, F., 1847.			
		Stephen, 1716.–	Anna, 1789.		Charles H., 1843	Amelia J., 1849.–			
		John, 1719.–	Gregory, 1791.*	John P., 1777.*					
		Benjamin, 1722.	Abigail, 1793.	Daniel S., 1780.		Sarah E., 1850.			
			Jeremiah, 1794.*	Alexander S., 1785.*	Ellen E., 1816.	Nelly, 1854.			
			Stephen, 1795.	Eliza, 1787.		Charles, 1855.			
			Freelove, 1796.	Mary, 1790.	Sophia S., 1812.				
			Edward, 1798.*		Sally A., 1813.	Horatio, 1837.			
				Joseph, 1789.*	Maria R., 1815.	Sebastin M., 1838.			
			Susannah, 1763.	Peter B., 1789.*	James A., 1817.	Abner L., 1841.			
			Stephen, 1764.	James, 1785.–	Thomas B., 1819.	Mary E., 1847.			
			Abigail, 1767.	Jabez, 1790.–	Elmira P., 1821.				
			Edward, 1770.			George A., 1847.			
				Sally W., 1781.–	Isaac, 1807.*				
			John S., 1753.	John W., 1783.	Thomas D., 1813.	Grace A., 1847.			
			Daniel S., 1754.*	Horatio M., 1785.		Clara W., 1849.			
			Jabez, 1756.	Nathaniel G. B., 1788.	Jeralmeel J., 186[illegible]	Herbert C., 1852.			
			James, 1757.*	Waterman T., 1790.	Lucy W., 1811.	Annie G., 1854.			
			Nathaniel B., 1758.	Lucy W., 1792.	Nathaniel, 1814.	Frank Gregory, 1856.			
				Mary C., 1794.	James G., 1817.*				
			Hope, 1747.	Martha, 1797.	Simon W., 1820.	Curtis W., 1836.	William, 1857		
			James, 1749.	Sabra E., 1798.	Daniel S., 1822.	Edwin, 1838.*			
			Huldah, 1750.	Joseph W., 1801.	Amey, 1825.				
			Oliver, 1752.–	Eliza A., 1804.	Samuel S. 1827.	Samuel A., 1815*			
			Marcy, 1751.			Edwin F., 1845.			
			Simeon, 1756.*	James, 1779.*	Horatio, 1813.	George F., 1846.			
			Esek, 1758.*		Ann E., 1815.	Abby F., 1847.			
			Benjamin G., 1760.	Abby G., 1785.	George T., 1819.	Susan M., 1849.			
			Nancy, 1761.	Mary, 1791.	Fanny O., 1822.	Edgar A., 1851.*			
			Alithea, 1764.	Louisa G., 1797.	Waterman W., 18[illegible]	Charles H., 1853.			
			Lucina, 1766.	Alice, 1800.	Henry, B., 1827.	Henry C., 1856.			
			Timothy W., 1768.	Lucina, 1802.	Sarah L., 1830.				
					Caroline R., 1832	Samuel K., 1837.			
			David, 1758.	James M., 1804.		Thomas M., 1839.*			
			Samuel, 1760.*	Benjamin G., 1805.*	Charles, 1829.–	Andrew J., 1815.	Josephine, 1830.		
			Otis, 1762.*	Eseck W., 1807.			Frank, 1854.		
			George, 1764.*	Sarah A., 1814.	Timothy, W., 183[illegible]				
			Stephen, 1766.		Anna S., 1833.	Ellen A., 1847.			
				Otis, 1780.*	Harriet W., 1835.	Pardon N., 1850.			
			Jeremiah, 1739.	Samuel, 1781.	James C., 1837.	Marrietta, 1856.	Emma, 1852.		
				Bela, 1783.*	Benjamin, 1839.	George, 1857.	Maria A., 1854.		
			Thomas, 1752.	George, 1785.–	Thomas, 1842.				
			Phebe, 1754.	Gregory, 1787.*	Albert, 1841.*	Wanton, 1857.			
			Stephen, 1756.–		Phebe A., 1846.				
			Jeremiah, 1758.–	Stephen, 1796	George E., 1850.	Mary, 1813.	Lydia, 1856.		
			Elisha, 1760.–			Susan, 1820.			
				William, 1769.	Frances, 1838.	Henry, 1822.			
					Frederick A., 181[illegible]	Louisa, 1826.			
				Susan, 1793.		Jeremiah, 1827.			
				William, 1795.–	William C., 1808.	William A., 1830.			
				George, 1797.–	David W., 1809.	Horace, 1832.	Mary E., 1853		
				Mary, 1799.	George H., 1811.*	Mahala, 1836.			
				Thomas, 1802.	Orin L., 1813.				
					John S., 1818.	Lydia A., 1817.			
					Orissa B., 1821.	Anna E., 1821.	Merrit D., 1852.		
					Pardon N., 1822.	Andrew, 1823.	George S., 1853.		
					Samuel A., 1824.	Abby L., 1825.			
						Harley, 1827.	Phebe, 1856.		
					Sabra, 1822.	Stephen A., 1829.			
					Mary, 1821.	Albert H., 1832.	Lillis E., 1854.		
					Cornelia, 1829.	Charles N., 1836.			
					Susan, 1831.	George R., 1838.			
					Andrew J., 1834.				
					Henry O., 1836.	Emery, 1822.			
					Edmund M., 1840	Arnold, 1825.*	Henrietta, 1851.		
						Mary E., 1826.	Mary E., 1852.		
					Jeremiah, 1790.	George A., 1829.*	Ida M., 1856.		
					Abby, 1792.	Elmira F., 1832.			
					Stephen, 1794.	Joseph W., 1834.			
					William, 1798.	Laura M., 1838.			
						Emeline, 1841.			
					Phila, 1834.				
					Mary J., 1836.				
					George W. 1843.				
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